

Association. Not only for the valuable scientific and other programs, but because of the widespread interest in the Medical Service plans, soon to be put into operation in California, this coming gathering should have particular appeal. At a recent meeting of the Committee on Scientific Work, the reports of the secretaries of the twelve scientific sections indicated more than ever that the time necessary for attendance may be put to most profitable use.

Several joint sessions will be held with symposia on topics such as sulfanilamid, chronic alcoholism, and poliomyelitis. The guest speakers include: Dr. Chester Keefer, Harvard University; Dr. Stuart Harrington, Mayo Clinics; and Dr. U. V. Portmann, Cleveland Clinics.

The clinical pathological conference, to be conducted by Dr. Chester Keefer, in coöperation with California colleagues, will undoubtedly measure up to the excellent standard of previous years.

The first general meeting on Monday morning, May 1, will be given over to the addresses of President W. W. Roblee of Riverside and other speakers, who will present, among other things, progress reports on the Association's plans for a statewide, voluntary medical service.

The programs of the scientific sections, the scientific exhibits and the technical-commercial booths, as outlined in the tentative plans, should all be of interest and value.

In the scientific exhibit section, it is proposed to present an almost continuous series of films on medical and surgical work.

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Hotel Reservations Should Be Made.—Del Monte and the Monterey Peninsula are outstanding in possessing surroundings of never failing attraction to all who love the great out-of-doors or an environment of historical interest. Members who do not journey to Del Monte by automobile may use with equal convenience railroad transportation. A one and one-third round-trip rate will be secured for those who present travel certificate forms from county society secretaries, and, in due time, these will be forwarded. In the California Medical Association department* in this issue is given a list of the hotels, with rates, location, and other information. All members who contemplate attendance at the annual session, May 1-4, should promptly write for reservations. Why not lay plans now to attend the 1939 annual session?

PRESIDENT-ELECT CHARLES A. DUKES' VISITATIONS TO COUNTY SOCIETIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Visitation Itineraries of President Roblee and President-Elect Dukes.—Commencing on Monday, January 16 and ending on Wednesday, January 25, President-Elect Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, with the Association Secretary and District Councilors C. L. Emmons, Carl A. Howson and Louis A. Packard visited the following so-

cieties: Orange, Pasadena, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Diego, Imperial, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. At each meeting there was a full attendance. In Los Angeles the large auditorium was filled, with overflow attendance in the dining rooms, where loudspeakers had been installed.

In November last, President W. W. Roblee covered most of the northern and central counties in California. Since, in recent years, it has become evident that the demands upon the time of the presiding officers of the State Association for visitation work are so great, a plan has been devised whereby, annually, the President-Elect will take for visitation the county societies in one portion of the State, and the President, in the succeeding year will visit the county units in the other part of California.

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Medical Service the Major Topic.—In President Roblee's tour in November the subject for discussion was "The Good of the Association," with emphasis on national and state trends in medical service. President-Elect Dukes, however, was called upon to speak on the plans for a special service recently formulated in California, and now being put into operation. At each meeting a full presentation of the plans was made, ending always with the request that questions be asked. The large attendance at the meetings and the numerous queries submitted are indications of the deep interest taken by members in the proposed "California Physicians' Service."

The California Medical Association is greatly indebted, therefore, to President W. W. Roblee and President-Elect Dukes for their more than generous donations of valuable time, and for the efficient services they have rendered to organized medicine in California in cordially meeting the members of the local societies and frankly and ably discussing with them some of the major problems now confronting the medical profession. Truly, officers of medical associations, in our present day, hold positions that no longer belong merely to the honorary class. An official position in a medical society, today, means work, and plenty of it!

POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL CONFERENCES

Clinical Conferences with Teams to Be Held in Northern, Central and Southern California. Component county medical societies will shortly be contacted concerning the holding of clinical conferences within their districts. The State Committee on Postgraduate Activities hopes to secure the coöperation everywhere of county society units for a series of spring and fall clinical conferences, designed respectively to carry the work to Northern, Central and Southern California. In each section it is planned to send out one or two teams, for several days at a time, each team covering a territory conveniently located. For this potential work the aid of faculty and nonfaculty teachers and demonstrators has been promised. Shortly, full information concerning these graduate con-

* See page 137.

ferences will be forwarded to each county society, with a request for coöperation from their angles.

In several states, postgraduate activities have been put into operation on a statewide basis and with excellent, even astonishing results; and California should not be laggard in this important work. Officers and program committees of local societies are urged to arrange their meeting schedules so that the holding of clinical conferences in their districts may be promoted. Already, during the last several years, the San Joaquin County Medical Society, under the leadership of Dr. C. A. Broadus, and his coworkers, has demonstrated the value of consistent postgraduate work, and last year the medical societies of Santa Barbara, Kern and Ventura counties held a two-day, Saturday-Sunday graduate session that met with excellent attendance and hearty approval. May not the example set by these societies be well followed by other county units?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Presidential Message of January 23, 1939.

As this February issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE goes to press, dispatches from Washington indicate that Congress will be urged by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to enact part of the health program put forward by the Technical Group appointed by President Roosevelt's Interdepartmental Committee; the report of the two committees having been presented at the National Health Conference which convened in Washington on July 17, 1939.

Recommendations of the Health Conference have already been commented upon in previous issues of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL. It may be recalled that in a five to ten year health-development program, as outlined by the lay technical experts, it was proposed to spend as much as eight hundred and fifty million dollars during the peak year of the effort! It is reassuring, therefore, to note that the present Congress will be called upon to appropriate no more than fifty million dollars for a beginning of the work, and this along lines of health conservation with which the American Medical Association and its constituent state organizations are in full accord.

As given in the preliminary newspaper reports, the present program should meet with the joint approval of citizens and members of the medical profession. (In this issue, see also pages 139-140.)

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A Provision of Particular Interest.—Worthy of special mention is the inclusion of a provision mentioned in the statement:

"1. Pay physicians to care for those too poor to afford medical care."

This official recognition of the obligations of the public in the care of the indigent sick has been too long delayed, so far as it relates to official governmental announcements, and its promulgation at this time, therefore, is all the more welcome.

The Text of the Washington Announcement. For members of the California Medical Association who may have missed reading the item referred to, the first Associated Press dispatch on the subject is printed below:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT URGES HEALTH PLANS TODAY *Special Message to Congress May Ask Eight Hundred and Fifty Millions Yearly for Big, Long-Range Program*

Washington, January 22 (AP).—President Roosevelt is expected to urge Congress, in a special message tomorrow, to enact legislation for a huge, long-range health-improvement program.

The health program, which would provide for expenditures of up to eight hundred and fifty million dollars annually from state and federal funds by 1949, has been a controversial issue since it was recommended to Roosevelt last July by his special Interdepartmental Committee on Health and Welfare.

Wagner Has Bill

Senator Wagner (Democrat), New York, has prepared a bill calling for a fifty-million-dollar appropriation to begin the proposed health program.

While the proposal stirred up some opposition in medical circles, the American Medical Association agreed last September with the Interdepartmental Committee that there was a vital need for an extension of existing medical facilities.

Dr. Irvin Abell of Louisville, Kentucky, President of the Association, conferred last week with President Roosevelt and said afterward that the Association was in full agreement with the Chief Executive on the need for the use of Government funds in promoting the health of the nation.

Money Program

Money appropriated for the health program would, according to recommendations of the committee, be used to:

1. Pay physicians to care for those too poor to afford medical care.
2. Assist existing hospitals and build new ones where needed, particularly in rural areas.
3. Establish clinics for quick diagnosis and treatment of disease.
4. Encourage vaccination against preventable diseases.
5. Develop maternal and child welfare facilities, including baby clinics, schools for expectant mothers, visiting nurses, and obstetrical care if needed.
6. Stimulate public health service to control disease through such activities as controlling stream pollution, establishing more efficient quarantines, health instruction for both children and adults, and closer inspection of milk and water supplies.

Funds would be allotted to states and communities under restrictions requiring that they do their part in health promotion.

SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE AND WARS

Address of Dr. Edward M. Pallette.—At the Del Monte annual session of two years ago, the retiring president, Dr. Edward M. Pallette of Los Angeles, gave to his presidential address the title, "Human Betterment." In his discussion of organic evolution he called attention to the manner in which the advances in scientific medicine had in one sense created an imbalance, through making possible the accretion to our population of many individuals who in former centuries, under the rule of the survival of the fittest, would not have lived to adult life.

Several of Doctor Pallette's statements, to which exceptions were taken, are as follows:

We are fast approaching a condition when we will be a nation of adolescents, governed by adolescents, for adoles-